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CIA LATE ITEM

CHILE: Pinochet Announces Referendum

Chilean President Augusto Pinochet announced last night that a constitutional referendum will be held on 11 September. The constitution, which is likely to be approved, will extend Pinochet's one-man rule for eight more years. It will preclude free elections for the presidency until 1997. The timing of the announcement reflects Pinochet's need to reassert his authority at a time of increasing terrorist violence from both right and left. The terms of the proposed constitution were immediately denounced as farcical by civilian opposition political parties. [redacted]